GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Revenue Department –Madanapalli Division – Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (Now Under suspension) – Negligence in discharging his duties - Departmental Proceedings under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Articles of charge – Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 812 **Dated: 14-11-2024**

Read:

G.O.Ms.No.125, Revenue (Vig.I) Dept., Dt.30.07.2024

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ORDER:

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charge (Annexure – I). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the article of charge is proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure–II & III).

3. Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) is directed to submit his written statement of defense within 10 (ten) days of the receipt of this order.

4. Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of that article of charge as is not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense on or before the date specified in para-3 above, further action will be processed based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) is aware of such a

representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of the Order be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

R.P.SISODIA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(LANDS, DM, R&S)

To
Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (Now Under suspension). (Through the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri for service and to return the served copy with dated acknowledgement immediately (By RPAD))
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri
The District Collector, Annamayya District.
The PS to Special CS to Government (lands), Revenue Department
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

DRAFT ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GAUTAM TEJ NAIDU GORANTLA, SENIOR ASSISTANT, O/O SUB COLLECTOR, MADANAPALLE (NOWUNDER SUSPENSION).

Article of Charge-I:-Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, while workings as Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle, though he knew the facts and regulations in the land related files i.e., de-notifying lands under Section 22A(1) and converting D-Patta lands to freehold status..etc., he intentionally fabricated and forging official records to facilitate unauthorized land transferand circulated said irregular files intentionally by colluding with private persons. One forged file of Tahsildar, Madanapalle with file ref.No.A/20/2024 dated 29.01.2024 was identified during the verification. He deliberately misguide his superior officer for his peculiar gains, directly violating the rules against falsification of documents, which shows gross negligence in his official duties and notaccountable in his duty.

Thus, Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) violated rules 3(1), 3(2) & 6 of A.P.C.S.Conduct Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

Article of Charge-II:-Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, while workings as Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle, though he knew the facts and regulations, he brought and store hazardous materials i.e., engine oil in his office almirah illegally and also leaving mosquito repellent incense burning near records. He was also found to have Rs.1.5 Lakhs amount of cash in his office almirah, which was linked to irregular land transactions. These misconducts significantly contributed to the damage caused by the fire accident that occurred on 21.07.2024 at about 11.30 PM at the Sub Collector's Office, Madanapalle. Additionally, this was also shown severe violations of financial integrity and ethical standards.

Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) violated rules 3(1), 3(2) & 6 of A.P.C.S.Conduct Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

R.P.SISODIA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(LANDS, DM, R&S)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GAUTAM TEJ NAIDU GORANTLA, SENIOR ASSISTANT, O/O SUB COLLECTOR, MADANAPALLE (NOW UNDER SUSPENSION)

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Basis of the articles of charges is preliminary enquiry report of the Special Chief Secretary to Government (Lands) Dt.25.07.2024.

In the O/o Sub-Collector, Madanapalli the incident of fire Accident occurred on 21.07.2024 at about 11.30 PM which lead to burning of crucial records/files pertaining to dotted lands, D patta lands and 22A(i) de-notification has taken place. The furniture, the computer systems and about 2440 files were gutted. Since the fire tenders reached within 17 minutes, about 700 files were retrieved immediately and saved from turning to ashes. Rest of the files have to be recreated. That would not be very difficult since these were all current files pertaining to cases related to 22A, assignments made freehold, dotted lands etc. CC cameras were not working since 10 th July. There are 7 CC cameras inside and 3 outside the office. RDO or the A.O. did not bother to get them rectified. This was a major lacuna leading everyone to speculate about the cause of the incident.The fire accident occurred somewhere between 11.00 PM 11.30 PM. Police collected forensic evidence from the spot. Dog squads were deployed but no conclusion could be reached. FSL reports are pending.

Sri Ramanayya aged 56 was the VRA on night duty. He came at 5.45 pm to office. At 6.00 PM Ex RDO Murali came to the Guest House. After Murali left, he went back inside the office. That time Sr Asst Sri Gautam was there. RDO and other officers were also there. After some time they left. Sri Gautam alone remained. He kept working on his computer. Sri Ramanayya went to his daughter's house nearby, had dinner and came back at about 8.30 pm. Sri Gautam was still there working on his computer. At 9.45 PM,Ramanayya fell off to sleep. He was fast asleep by 10 pm. What time Gautam left, he didn't know. He woke up at 11.30 PM by the sounds of sparks and saw big fire. Fire was more than 8 feet high. It was so big he was not capable of dousing. He came out and went near residence of RDO to look for Reddappa, the watch man. But Reddappa did not wake up. Then He called his immediate superior, DT, MsTapaswini.

Ms Tapaswini called C.C.Mani (CC to RDO).Mani calls up Fire dept and calls up RDO. She also calls Junior assistant Imran, Junior assistant Sai Tarun. Both of them did not lift the calls immediately. She then calls Gautham, senior assistant-B2 section and he lifted the call. Meanwhile from her husband's mobile she called the fire dept.

Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla is working as Sr Asst in office since 3 years. He came to office at 12.30 on 21-7-24 Sunday. Saturday at 11.30 am the RDO, Sri Hari Prasad asked to him do some files since he was about to get transferred. He looks after files pertaining to sec. 22A(i), alienation, making D patta lands freehold, dotted lands, land ceiling and wakf. He has 5 almirahs in the office. 1.5 lakh cash was there in a wooden almirah. One Sri TKN (T Krishmanaidu) gave him this cash for processing some files irregularly. He stated that he had to give this money to RDO. He had seven 22A files under process. These were Nimmanapalli mandal (1 village), Madanpalli (6 villages). All put together 15 acres. These are assigned lands. He dealt with Mr. Madhav Reddy (close follower of Mr Peddireddy

Ramchandra Reddy) for one deal for one lakh. One MrTukaram, PA of Mr. P Ramchandra Reddy introduced him to Sri Madhav Reddy. He had bought7 litres of shell engine oil online and kept the cane in office almirah. He owns a Ford Eco Sport car. He stated that he had processed nearly 500 acres of 22A and 13000 acres of D patta free hold files. Murali, ex RDO used to meet Tukaram and Madhav Reddy every week. Mr. Madhav Reddy also gave him one lakh on Saturday. Irregular processing of land files was the norm in the office.

For controlling mosquito menace in office, it was a habit of Mr. Gautam to use Mosquito repellent incense Neem sticks to control mosquitos. On Sunday also he has lighted one near his desk.

Sri V Mani Mudaliyar, age 44, working as CC to RDOssince 4 years. He stated that Madhav Reddy and Tukaram used to meet Murali ex-RDO every week. They used to come to RDO residence also. They used to deal in money transactions directly. RDO used to call Gautam after they left. Sometimes Murali RDO would ask Gautam to change the note in a positive way. Murali ex-RDO used to sometimes ask Tahsildars to change the reports in favour of 22A de-notification. RDO Hari prasad came in feb 2024. Madhav Reddy tried to meet him but could not. Satyanarayana used to come weekly 3-4 times. He is PA to sitting MLA of Piler. After they left he used to call Gautam and pressurize him to put up files positively. Murali's brother is Chelapathiwho stays in Madanpallionly.Sri Mani stated that he knew that money used to change hands with both the RDOs, the present one and the ex one.

Several irregularities have been noticed in the processing of files relating to de-notifying lands u/s 22A(1) of the Registration Act.

In Madanpallisub division, total lands proposed for making freehold was Ac. 79107 By MROs. Collector issued proceeding for Ac.74374. Rejected by Collector is Ac.4732. It appears that MROs have proposed huge extents of lands irregularly for making freehold. These include lands assigned after 2003, lands under dispute, court cases, lands which were alienated by the assignees before POT Act amendment, govt lands etc. hence a thorough reverification is required for all lands made freehold. The RDOs of Madanapalli have forwarded lots of irregular proposals to the Collector, the extent and magnitude of which has yet to be ascertained.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS:

The following conclusions can be drawn in this preliminary report:

- The electric short circuit is conclusively ruled out as a cause of the incident.
- Prima facie this does not appear to be a handiwork of outsiders.
- Complete dereliction of duty and negligence by all involved is proved from the facts of non-repair of CC cameras, permitting mosquito repellent burn sticks in the office where valuable records are kept, permitting a Sr Asst to keep motor oil in the office etc.
- The combustion intensity of the fire suggests that some chemical agents were used for quick spread of fire.
- Lot of irregularities in processing of land related files in the office. It is very likely that many proposals were irregularly processed pertaining to dotted lands, D patta lands and 22A(i) de-notification.

- Preponderance of probability indicates a deliberate design to burn land related records in order to destroy evidence which can be proved after all the facets of investigation are completed.
- Prima facie this seems to be done by Sri Gautam at the behest of the ex-RDO Murali, Tukaram (PA to Sri P. Ramchandra Reddy and Madhav Reddy (close follower and henchman of Sri P. Ramchandra Reddy.However, this fact needs to be established fully with concrete evidence by the CID.
- The Ex-RDO Sri Murali is guilty of criminal conspiracy, creating false reports and forged signatures, diverting huge amounts of lands under 22A, making D-Patta lands freehold and regularising dotted lands in favour of private persons.
- The present RDO Sri Hari Prasad is guilty of criminal negligence, corruption in land matters and lack of integrity, complete lack of supervision on the subordinates.
- Sri Gautam is guilty of criminal conspiracy and forging and fabricating records.

For the above said reasons, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Sri Gautam Tej Naidu Gorantla, Senior Assistant, O/o Sub Collector, Madanapalle (NowUnder suspension) for his guilt of criminal conspiracy and forging and fabricating records

Hence, the Articles of charge.

R.P.SISODIA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(LANDS, DM, R&S)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GAUTAM TEJ NAIDU GORANTLA, SENIOR ASSISTANT, O/O SUB COLLECTOR, MADANAPALLE (NOW UNDER SUSPENSION) ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

Basis of the Charge:-

1. Preliminary enquiry report of the Spl C.S, Revenue (Lands, DM, R&S) Dept., Preliminary report, dt: 25.07.2024
2. Memo No. REV01-LANA0CCLV(DISC)/58/2024-VIG-I dated 30.07.2024 of the Spl. Chief Secretary to Government (Land, DM, R&S), A.P.

R.P.SISODIA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(LANDS, DM, R&S)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GAUTAM TEJ NAIDU GORANTLA, SENIOR ASSISTANT, O/O SUB COLLECTOR, MADANAPALLE (NOW UNDER SUSPENSION) ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

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1. Sri Ramanayya aged 56, VRA
2. Ms Tapaswini, Deputy Tahsildar
3. Sri V Mani Mudaliyar Mani (CC to RDO)
4. Imran, Junior assistant,
5. Sai Tarun, Junior assistant

R.P.SISODIA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(LANDS, DM, R&S)

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